Reduction in subsidy on complex fertilizers

524. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had sought a reduction in the ad-hoc subsidy on the decontrolled phos-hatic, potassic an complex fertilizer to Rs. 550 crores this year from a level of Rs. 628 crores in 1993-94 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) As (against the available provision of Rs. 632.14 crores during 1993-94 under Concessional Scheme on sale of decontrolled phosphatic, potassic and complex fertilizers with concession *to* the farmers, actual funds released to States/Union Territories amounted to Rs. 517.34 crores only. Hence, as requirement of Rs. 550 crores, which would be sufficient to take care of the demand for 1994-95 has been projected.

Interlinking of agricultural universities and farm research institutions

525. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Willthe Minister of AGRICUL TURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR is developing a computer network to interlink the Agricultural Universities and Farm Research Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the likely benefits of this system ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRITURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has entered intoanagreementwiththelnternational Service for National Agricultural Research ISNAR), an International Agricultural Research Centre based in the Hague, (The Netherlands), for' preparing a detailed project report for linking all zonal research stations of the State Agricultural Universities with the Headquarters of the University and the University with ICAR Headquarter. Some of the ICAR Institutes are already linked to ICAR Headquarters through NICNET. A computer network linking zonal research stations, SAUs and ICAR Institutes with the Headquarters of the Council will provide on line exchange of information on agricultural research and technology and lead to quicker access to information required by research scientists.

लातूर में भूकम्प के झटके

526. श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महाराष्ट्र के लातूर जिले में 24 जून को भूकम्प के झटके महसूस किए गये ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस भूकम्प की तीव्रता क्या थी ;

(ग) इस भूकम्प से हुए जानमाल के नुकसान का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(घ) पिछले वर्ष का भूकम्प और इस वर्ष के भूकम्प को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार इस क्षेत्र के भूगर्भ का कोई अध्ययन कर रही है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेतम) : (क) तथा (ख) 24 जून, 1994 को भारतीय मानक समय अनुसार प्रात: 3 बजकर 33 मिनट पर रिक्टर पैमाने पर 4.2 परिमाण का एक भूकम्प आया।

(ग) महाराष्ट्र सरकार से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, भूकम्प के कारण जान अथवा सम्पत्ति की कोई हानि नहीं हुई ।

(घ) से (च) भारतीय भू-वैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण, भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग, भारतीय सर्वेक्षण, राष्ट्रीय भू-भौतिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान, राष्ट्रीय सुदूर संवेदी एजेन्सी जैसी विभिन्न केन्द्रीय सरकारी एजेन्सियां इस क्षेत्र में आए भूकम्प के झटकों के सन्दर्भ में जांच कर रही है । इन जांच कार्यों में भूतल भू-वैज्ञानिक मानचित्रण, विभिन्न भू-भौतिकी पद्धतियों द्वारा उप-सतही (सब-सरफेस) संरचनाओं का अध्ययन और सूक्ष्म-भूकम्प-कार्यकलाप की मानिटरिंग शामिल है ।

Integrated Watershed Management

527. SHRI SURESH KAJLIMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a scheme for integrated watershed management in catchment areas of flood-prone rivers; and

(b) if so, that are the details of the scheme and by when it is likely to be put into operation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NET AM):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Centrally Sponspred Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers is being implemented sincesixth Five Year Plan(1980-81) covering the catchments of Ghaggar (Punjab, H. P. & Haryana), Upper Yamuna (U. P. & H. P. Sahibi (Haryana, Delhi & Rajasthan), Upper Ganga (Uttar Pradesh), Gomti (Uttar Pradesh,) Sone (Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh & Bihar), Punpun (Bihar) Ajoy (Bihar & West Bengal) and Roopnarayan (Bihar & West Bengal) of Gangetic basin. The financing pattern of the scheme is 100 per cent central assistance comprising 50% grant and 450% loan to the States.

Flood havoc in States

528. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many parts of the country have been affected by floods due to heavy rains recently;

(b) whether a Central team was sent to the affected areas to assess the damages caused by floods; and

(c) if so, the estimated loss suffered and assistance rendered by the Central Government to the affected States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NET AM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to reports received from the State Governments, floods during the current monsoon have so far claimed 567 human lives, damaged 1.64 lakh houses and crops in an area of 5.55 lakh ha.

In order to enable the State Governments to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted, which is contributed by the Government of India to the extent of 75%. Two instalments of Central share of CRF have already been released to all State Governments. In view of the floodsituation, advances from the CRF have also been released to Gujarat and Karnataka. Advace release from the CRF has been recommended for the States of Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh and a further advance release to Gujarat.